

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send for instructions.

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OUR WEEKLY TEXT.

"All things, therefore, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them; for this is the law and the prophets."—Matt. vii., 12.

WE CAN SPARE TEN THOUSAND.

The country seems to be needlessly working itself into a fever of excitement over the specter of an exodus supposed to be in process of incubation, with Special Commissioner T. Thomas Fortune as incubator-in-chief. There is nothing in the interview given out from Honolulu to indicate that Mr. Fortune has any idea of advising the Negro to get out of the United States in pell-mell rush for the Hawaiian or Philippine Eldorado. His observations so far, are necessarily superficial and general, and he spoke after that fashion when he referred to labor conditions and the uses to which a limited number of seasoned field hands could be put in the development of the products peculiar to the Hawaiian group. The natives are not equal to handling the work satisfactorily to the men who wish to invest heavily, and as Negro labor is reliable and experienced, Mr. Fortune sees at a glance a better harbor there for those Negroes who wish to emigrate than to fly to the inhospitable shores of the Dark Continent. The departure of 10,000 Negroes in a period of six months would not be an alarming exodus—we would not miss them. We are not sure that it would not be a good idea to invite that number to take service in the islands as an experiment. There are plenty of young middle-aged Negroes who have no family instinct, and who have no future to speak of in the South or anywhere on continental America. It is not to be expected that heads of families will sacrifice their holdings or opportunities here, for removal would be attended by hardships which would fall upon their dependents. If the race is to develop the pioneer spirit, the untrammelled and adventurous elements must strike out for these new fields and see what there is in them of substance and profit. Mr. Fortune can be relied upon to return a report that will set forth actual con-

ditions, and one that will be of value to the country for its matured conclusions.

As we said last week, individuals and groups of individuals will hie themselves to the new possessions in search of the golden fleece, but the bulk of the Negroes cannot be induced to leave the land in which they have invested so much of brain and brawn. The papers and organizations that are flashing in the pan over Mr. Fortune's alleged propaganda of deportation should pause for reflection and await results. Senator Morgan's wild-cat scheme has evidently frightened somebody.

The Negro is finding that, after all, he has a few friends left.

The successful Negro business man will be the race leader of the future.

It is believed that Mr. Roosevelt will be able to bag the two-legged bears down in Mississippi, if they don't watch out.

The man who has nothing anyone wants, and who is in nobody's way makes few enemies.

Senator Hoar is true to the "Massachusetts spirit," generated by Sumner, Garrison and Wilson.

Where was that law providing for the punishment of conspirators against federal officials at the time of the assassination?

The Colored American for 1903 will be better than ever. Now is the time for new friends to subscribe, and for old ones to pay up.

And now the Indian has taken to drawing the color line against the Negro. The untutored savage is "getting more like white folks every day."

The "business interests" of no disorderly community are superior to the majesty of the law. That is the very righteous view of President Roosevelt.

Can a republic, so closely-knit as ours, perpetuate two separate and distinct civilizations based upon mere color? Study the thing out to its final analysis.

If Indianola can stand for the closing of its post office, Mrs. Cox can endure her \$1,200 salary without work for an indefinite period. The "trick" belongs to the "stand-patting" postmistress.

The assurance that there is to be no change in the pastorate of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church here is gratifying to the hosts who rally so nobly to the standard of the Rev. Daniel G. Hill.

Captain Gilmer is no politician. His ambition is merely to serve his country where his tastes and talents are likely to yield the greatest benefits to the government—in the United States Army.

Mr. Boutwell must not forget that the issue of "imperialism" has ceased to be "paramount." The whites are harping on the tariff, but with the Negro the question of equality of civil and political rights upon this coil takes precedence over all issues.

THE CAPITAL SAVINGS BANK IN EQUITY.

Now that receivers have been appointed to take hold of the affairs of the Capital Savings Bank, and the business is in a fair way to be adjusted to the advantage of all concerned, it may be well to say a word or two in calm and dispassionate spirit.

No calamity has happened in this city in many years that touched our people so vitally as the collapse of this time-honored institution. The crash was wholly unexpected, for since it so bravely weathered the awful crisis of 1893, its friends and patrons had as much confidence in its seaworthiness, within its bounds, as they had in Riggs' famous bank, which is regarded as the Gibraltar of the District in finance. We recognize the difficulty for people to be cool when their savings of years are

in jeopardy—when the sacrifices of present comforts for future safe-guards have gone for naught. But we must not be too hasty and run the risk of losing the remnant that is left in a mad desire for the immediate punishment of some individual to whose mismanagement or worse the disaster may be due. The assets of a business in which upwards of a thousand persons are engaged cannot be determined or realized upon in a moment and the interested ones must possess their souls in patience if the happiest results are to be obtained. We regret as much as any one that there should have been what appeared to be unseemly delay on the part of the stockholders in making a statement, as definite as possible, of what they would try to do, or what they were willing to do for the benefit of the depositors. Prompt action might have allayed much ill-feeling, and hushed many expressions of resentment. Be that as it may, the thing to do now is to gather up the fragments, and to discover some way in which a new concern can be built up, and confidence restored to the normal degree.

That a mistake has been made somewhere in overconfidence, is very evident, but it will not be fair to denounce the whole directorate as corrupt or venal until evidence is adduced to bear out such a charge. The bank had at its head an aggregation of gentlemen of character, means, and capacity that it would be difficult to duplicate in any community in the land. They represent the best we have in education, social standing and personal achievement. If in this band there is some rotten timber, some wolf in sheep's clothing, we believe the worthier members will not be content until the guilty one is exposed and held up to the anathema and contempt of the widows and orphans he has made to suffer, and to the wrath of the enterprising men he has retarded in their upward march. The frank and manly attitude of Messrs. Terrell, Montgomery, Lofton, McKinley and others, in offering to bear their full share of the burden, gives us reason for a hope that a way out of the darkness may be found. The people have not lost all faith in the men who have been "on the level," and it may not be too late to re-organize under a new name, and begin the battle for business on a stronger and better plan. It will take time, of course, but there is no need for despair. The most reputable banks of the country, conducted by white men, are failing every day—Is that any argument that banks are all rotten and they must cease to figure in our commercial economy? A bank is a necessity, and especially do we need an institution that will receive and care for small sums, for we are compelled, as a people, to deal in small figures financially.

The Colored American is friendly to both the directors and the depositors. It sympathizes with all in the unhappy plight in which circumstances have placed them. Let us felicitate ourselves, however, that the affairs of the bank are in such capable hands and cling to the hope that out of the maze will come an ultimate solution, honorable and satisfactory to every individual at interest, and preservative of the business capacity of the race.

Our public men of sufficient weight to be quoted must be exceedingly careful of their utterances. The country swarms with carping critics, "smart alecks" who make a specialty of picking out a harmless sentence from a long and thoughtful speech, and by adroitly garoling it the whole tenor and effect of the deliverance is twisted to the opposite of what was meant. Let us be careful and watch out for these fellows who are "jes smart."

INTERLOPERS.

It is not frequent that The Colored American has occasion to speak of Washington and her people except in terms of praise. It is our purpose to spike the guns of opposition that are constantly turned against us by the small-souled element of the other race, who defy the laws of the land, and rate the Negroes as an alien, menial and proscribed class. It is always with reluctance and regret that our hand is raised to chastise a brother, even when he is grievously at fault. At such times, our action is not taken

in a spirit of reprisal or retaliation, but to arouse the smouldering germs of decency that may lie latent in his bosom, and as kindly as possible to discover whether he can be saved from himself. More in pity than in anger we are at intervals compelled to call attention to a few misguided individuals, who insist upon going around in search of trouble. Whether it does any good to direct the cudgel of popular contempt toward them is a question, for our city's ruling characteristic is her toleration of nuisances and mischief-makers, who would not survive three months in the bustling centers of the South or West, where right-living and right-thinking are prerequisites not only to respect and confidence, but to an existence outside of prison walls. For some reason or another, a little coterie of self-seekers and pestiferous cormorants, have conceived the idea that it is smart to sneer at the enterprising men and women who come here to help build up the waste places, and dub them "interlopers." To ferment strife and stir up petty jealousies, they play upon the pardonable pride of native Washingtonians, and endeavor to array worthy people against each other, solely on the ground that the District of Columbia and the fullness thereof, is the property in fee simple of only those who happen to be born therein—to the exclusion of all "outsiders." This is a species of provincialism unbecoming of men who pretend to possess intelligence. Washington is the capital—the estate in common of every American citizen—let him hail from the rock-bound coast of Maine or from the cattle-lands of Texas. The country at large pays half the expenses of the District, and the National Congress, elected by all the states, has complete control of her destiny.

Interlopers! God save the mark! Every great government, city, or institution has been developed by so-called "interlopers." "Orits" as a rule, no matter how well disposed, get into a rut from the natural feeling that they know everything, and that what they haven't done can't be done. A brand-new man, full of fresh ideas, bubbling over with enthusiasm, jumps in, and in a jiffy has effected a revolution.

Why, bless your soul, "interlopers" built up the Roman Empire. They made England, France and Germany the foremost agents of modern civilization. "Interlopers" discovered, developed and vitalized the American Republic—setting the pace for all the world in commerce, manufactures and popular sovereignty. Yes, we are proud to be "interlopers"—to discount and make ashamed the shiftless non-descripts, that travel upon such flimsy credentials as nativity, and whose sordid souls are gangrened with envy over the achievements of successful men, the latches of whose shoes they are not worthy to unloose.

We outsiders, who first saw the light amid the fervid heart-beats of a growing nation, far from the miasmic shores of the Potomac are "interlopers"—"interlopers" as Washington, Lincoln, Grant, McKinley and the matchless Roosevelt are "interlopers." Yes, just as the men whose bounty has wrought the prettiest capital on earth and whose gifts have made it the "reservoir of literature and learning."

But why multiply words? The real people of Washington are quick to welcome the "stranger within her gates"—and equally prompt in sending to the rear the moral lepers, political pirates and conscienceless pretenders, whose ability to handle a sandbag is their most effective passport to the "society" with which they mingle. As to what may be said of us by individuals whose very mediocrity renders them immune from personal mention—life is too short to indulge in worry. More in sorrow than in anger we pen these lines, commending our critics to the care of the Blessed Saviour, who cried:

"Forgive them Father!
They know not what they do."

It is human nature to desire to look as well as possible. That is why the manufacturer of cosmetics, hair straighteners, skin bleaches and the various devices to assist nature wax rich in this world's goods. Why blame them for catering to a very natural human propensity.